

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

A Sub 1. A method of facilitating a user's review of ^{*previously recorded*} audio program material over at least two review sessions, the audio program material having been communicated to the user over a communication network, the method comprising the steps of:

monitoring a user's progress in the user's review of audio program material during a first review session; and

when the user terminates the first review session, storing an indication of the user's progress in reviewing the program material during that session.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of an audio program service furnishing said audio program material to said user over a communication channel.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said communication channel comprises a data network.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein said communication channel comprises a telephone network.

5. The method of claim 2, wherein said communication channel comprises a wireless communication channel.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said steps are implemented by a user's personal appliance.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said audio program material is stored on CD-ROM.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein said steps are

1 implemented by a communications network-based service.

A 54B6 1 9. A method of facilitating a user's review of ^{previously recorded} audio
2 program material over at least two review sessions, the
3 audio program material having been communicated to the
4 user over a communication network, the method comprising
5 the steps of:

6 monitoring a user's progress in the user's review
7 of audio program material, said monitoring performed
8 during a first audio program review session;

9 when the user terminates the first audio program
10 review session, storing an indication of the user's
11 progress in reviewing the program material during that
12 session;

13 in a second audio program review session subsequent
14 to the termination of said first program review session,
15 playing said audio program material to said user
16 beginning from a position within said material
17 determined based on said stored indication.

1 10. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step
2 of an audio program service furnishing said audio
3 program material to said user over a communication
4 channel.

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6 11. The method of claim 10, wherein said communication
7 channel comprises a data network.

1 12. The method of claim 10, wherein said communication
2 channel comprises a telephone network.

1 13. The method of claim 10, wherein said communication
2 channel comprises a wireless communication channel.

1 14. The method of claim 9, wherein said steps are
2 implemented by a user's personal appliance.

1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein said audio program
2 material is stored on CD-ROM.

1 16. The method of claim 9, wherein said steps are
2 implemented by a communications network-based service.

A Sub C3 1 17. A method of creating a bookmark for use with an
2 audio service that provides ~~previously recorded~~ sequential audio information
3 comprising the steps of:
4 associating a user code with a user of the audio
5 service;
6 monitoring a present location of the user in a
7 sequence of audio information in an access to the audio
8 service;
9 detecting a termination of the access to the audio
10 service;
11 creating a termination code defining the present
12 location of the user in said sequence at the time the
13 termination is detected;
14 correlating the user code and the terminating code;
15 and
16 storing the result of said correlating step.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein a service
2 identifying code is associated with each audio service;
3 and said step of correlating further includes the step
4 of associating a service identifying code with said user
5 code and said termination code.

1 19. The method of claim 17, wherein said step of
2 monitoring comprises the steps of loading a register
3 with an initialization value at the start of the service
4 and updating the register as the audio information is
5 presented.

1 20. The method of claim 19, wherein said audio
2 information is divided into discrete blocks of
3 information and wherein said step of updating includes
4 the step of revising the contents of said register to
5 hold a block identifier corresponding to the block of
6 information being conveyed by the service at that time.

1 21. The method of claim 19, wherein said register
2 stores the time elapsed from the beginning of the
3 providing of the audio information.

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1 22. A method of providing audio services using a
2 bookmark comprising the steps of:
3 generating a menu of a plurality of audio services;
4 detecting a selection of one of said plurality of
5 audio services;
6 transmitting *previously recorded* audio information from the selected
7 audio service;
8 monitoring a user's position in the selected audio
9 service as the corresponding audio information is
10 transmitted;
11 detecting a termination of the selected audio
12 service that occurs prior to completion of said service;
13 creating and storing a bookmark that identifies a
14 user, the selected service and the user's position in
15 the selected service at the time of termination;
16 subsequently accessing said bookmark; and
17 returning the user to the location of the selected
18 service based on said bookmark.

1 23. The method of claim 22, wherein said selected audio
2 service comprises a plurality of discrete blocks of
3 audio information, each block having a unique block
4 identifier wherein said step of tracking comprises the
5 step of temporarily storing the block identifier of a
6 discrete block of audio information as that information

7 is transmitted.

1 24. The method of claim 22, wherein said step of
2 monitoring comprises the step of monitoring an elapsed
3 time from a time at which said transmitting step begins.

5 25. An audio information service platform comprising:
2 an audio content database;
3 a personal profile database;
4 a program playback module coupled to said
5 audio content database;
6 a playback position monitor coupled to said
7 program playback module; and
8 a service controller creating a user
9 identifier, and storing an audio content identifier and
10 a playback position identifier with said user identifier
11 in said personal profile database.

1 26. The platform of claim 25, wherein said audio
2 content database stores an audio information for a
3 plurality of audio services.

1 27. The platform of claim 26, further comprising a
2 service menu module, coupled to said service controller
3 and identifying an audio service in said audio content
4 database that is desired by a user.

1 28. The platform of claim 27, wherein said service menu
2 module advises said service controller of a desired
3 starting point for an identified audio service.

1 29. The platform of claim 25, further comprising a user
2 ID module that identifies a service user and wherein
3 said service controller searches said personal profile
4 database for data relating to an identified service
5 user.

1 30. The platform of claim 29, wherein said service
2 controller is coupled to said program playback module to
3 initiate a resumption of an audio program at a location
4 defined by a playback position identifier associated
5 with an identified service user in said personal profile
6 database.